death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo, these instructions have been again reiterated for necessary action.

Depletion of Forest Cover at Similipal Tiger Project

2817. SHRI. BIRABHADRA SINGH:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Project in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa in the recent years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the depletion;

(c) what long-term and short-term steps Government propose to take to arrest this depletion; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the various steps taken for the well being of the Tiger Project, in view of the unnatural death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the report received from Orissa Government there is no depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Preventive measure against spread of Trypnosomasis in wild tigers, include regular monitoring of the health of the livestock in and around the Similipal Tiger Reserve and exclusion of animals that are found positive.

Rising pollution in metropolitan cities

† 2818. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is increasing rapidy in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai in the country;

(b) the level of air pollution in each of the cities;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether bronchitis, asthama and the like diseases related with breathing are increasing up to dangerous level; and

(d) if so, the plan of Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Air pollution is increasing due to growth in economic activities including industries and transportation, accompanied by rise in population. However, a decreasing trend has been observed recently in Delhi. The annual average levels of criteria air pollutants monitored in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during 1999 are as follows:

Name of the City	Type of Area	Sulphur dioxide*	Oxides of nitrogen*	Suspended particulate matter*
Delhi	Residential	16.3	26.5	351
	Industrial	19.8	33.7	365
Mumbai	Residential	16.8	31.1	265
	Industrial	25.1	40.4	310
Chennai	Residential	8.3	14.7	79
	Industrial	8.9	13.4	113
Calcutta	Residential	38	30	310
	Industrial	55	42	487

*Annual average in ug/in3

(c) and (d) Air pollution may cause respiratory ailments. However, no conclusive data are available to establish the co-relationship between the increasing trend of air pollution and incidence of respiratory diseases. The steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution include the following:

(1) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.

(2) The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(3) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.

(4) Emissions from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants arc regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(5) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesel also has been reduced.

(6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.

(7) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of CNG kits.

Progress in Forest Conservation

2819. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the progress made in forest conservation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether Government have evolved national level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government of India continuously monitor the progress of forest conservation efforts in the country through Forest Survey of India's bieannual assessment of forest cover.

(b) According to the latest information of Forest Survey of India the country's forest cover is 19.39% of the geographic area. There has been an increase of 3896 sq. km. form the last assessment of 1997.

(c) to (c) Indian Institute of Forest Management. (IIFM), Bhopal an autonomous institute of the government of India has been studying the issue of evolving criteria and indicators for the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Government of India had constituted a task force in November, 1999